



TV Monday

@ NEW YORK POST LIVE: THE TV BLOG**CELEBRITY BLOG BLOG**
Stars have no one to blame but themselves**GET YOUR 15 MINUTES**
List of tryouts for reality shows in our area

'Mot

Sparks are flying anti-relationships Barney and

By NICOLE HOMEWOOD

HOW I Met Your Mother (CBS, Mondays, 8:30 p.m.) is venturing into classic murky sitcom territory as it tinkers with the possibility of a romance between two of its relationship-averse characters.

Legendary womanizer Barney Stinson (Neil Patrick Harris) has found love, or something like it, with Robin Scherbatsky (Cobie Smulders).

"HIMYM" centers on the story of how Ted Mosby (Josh Radnor) fell in love, framed through a repeated series of flashbacks from the year 2030.

After four seasons, viewers still don't know who Ted will wind up marrying, but fans don't seem to mind because they're too busy enjoying the antics of Ted and his friends, including Barney, Robin, and the married Marshall Eriksen (Jason Segel) and Lily Aldrin (Alyson Hannigan).

Playing the foil to Ted's hopeless romantic nature is Barney, the quick-witted, scene-stealing guy's guy who is constantly looking for an easy hook-up. What happens when the antics of one seemingly superficial character are challenged by his own genuine feelings of love and devotion for a friend?

It's not as if "HIMYM" has stopped being funny and become a Lifetime movie. The show re-

mains one of the post-'90s any kind of romance.

But some love-smitten fan's week-long reactions of the 2000s — and try.

Barney a sparks even fill in as Bill, where they shared an arg and ci-

In fact, Robin of Barbers at the and picks t-

Robin after night after her child's has been si-

Barney is a playboy. He is lovable. He is incredibly com-

When he fights, he wins. When he loses, he wins. When he is local, he is local. When he is friends with his friends, he becomes a friend with s-

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Starr Report

BY MICHAEL STARR



"American Idol" is still, by far, TV's top-rated show, but it's showing some signs of age this season—averaging 26.4 million viewers, its lowest average viewership since Season 2, according to data compiled by Horizon Media's Brad Adgate. The show's median age has also reached 41.4, up nearly 10 years from 2003 (definitely not music to advertisers' ears). Still, in addition to total viewers, "Idol" remains TV's top-rated show in adults 18-49.

CBS, meanwhile, might begin to wonder if William Peterson's departure from "CSI" will ultimately hurt the franchise. Thursday's night episode averaged 16.9 million viewers, the show's smallest audience, for an original episode, since its maiden season (2000) and a dropoff of over 7 million viewers from this season's high-water mark (24.2 million for the Jan. 15 episode).

Hurting "CSI" last Thursday was the rejuvenated "Grey's Anatomy," which snared its biggest viewership (15.6 million) in 10 months since "CSI" by 34 percent in adults 18-49.

Actor **Michael Shulman**, who became **Lacy Chabert's** first on-screen kiss way back when he played her boyfriend on "Party of Five," has reunited with his former on-screen love in "Sherman's Way," opening here March 6 at the Village East Theater (Second Ave.). Shulman co-produced the movie, a road-tripper in which he plays an "uptight Ivy Leaguer" who hitches a ride with a washed-up ex-athlete (**James Le Gros**) on the way to an LA job interview. Chabert plays Shulman's college girlfriend.



Your Mother* friends Barney (Neil Patrick Harris) and Robin Smulders are the show's most unexpected match.

Robin have been re- l on throughout the s already been re- Robin is not the fu- of Ted's children, n't stopped the show hing out the ups and e relationship.)

Robin was the ark as a televi- per in four days de- and back to Can- ed at the thought of . Barney went over o put together a video l clip reel that gets her ceeps her close. The Barney fans have

known and loved for four years.

Long-time viewers have seen hints of Barney's past life as a monogamous, music-writing hippie, a far cry from his more recent self as a clean-cut, corporate America-worshipping womanizer.

Any armchair psychologist with a remote control can tell you that Barney's past vulnerability and failed long-term relationship led directly to his superficial, detached attitude towards women.

Can a lovehorn Barney maintain his legendary awesomeness? Nicole Homewood Blogs about TV for nypost.com.

TV Talk Show GUESTS

TODAY

TRACE ADAMS — Craig Ferguson, 12:35 A.M., CH. 2
MARY ALBERT — Late Show With David Letterman, 11:35 P.M., CH. 2
JOAN BAEZ — Tavis Smiley, 1:00 P.M., CH. 13
T.C. BOYLE — Tavis Smiley, 12:00 MID., CH. 13
CHERYL BURKE — Rachael Ray, 10:00 A.M., CH. 7
GLENN CLOSE — Regis and Kelly, 9:00 A.M., CH. 7

BOONDOGS
PONDA —
WILTON —
HOLBI
P.J.
KATIE COURICOR —
CH. 1
HRODY
CH. 7
JESSE MCCOY — Regis and Kelly, 9:00 A.M., CH. 7
NEAL MCDONNELL & JULIE — Morning Show w/Mike & Julie, 9:00 A.M., CH. 5
MASAHARU MORIMOTO — Regis and Kelly, 9:00 A.M., CH. 7
DARIUS RUCKER — Jimmy Kimmel Live, 12:05 A.M., CH. 7

TOMORROW

ADLE — Craig Ferguson, 12:35 A.M., CH. 2
T.C. BOYLE — Tavis Smiley, 1:00 P.M., CH. 13
JAMES COHEN — Tavis Smiley, 12:00 MID., CH. 13
DANIEL CRAIG — Regis and Kelly, 9:00 A.M., CH. 7

HELENY DUFF — Rachael Ray, 10:00 A.M., CH. 7
MICHAEL CLARKE DUNCAN — Craig Ferguson, 12:35 A.M., CH. 2
JEFF GARDER — Maury, 10:00 A.M., CH. 11
RACHEL HAYES — Morning Show w/Mike & Julie, 9:00 A.M., CH. 5
MEZHGAN HUSSAINY — Rachael Ray, 10:00 A.M., CH. 7
ENRIQUE IGLESIAS — Regis and Kelly, 9:00 A.M., CH. 7
QUINCY JONES — Regis and Kelly, 9:00 A.M., CH. 7
TOM JONES — The View, 11:00 A.M., CH. 7
STEVE MARTIN — Late Show With David Letterman, 11:35 P.M., CH. 2
ANGELA SHELF MEDEARS — Morning Show w/Mike & Julie, 9:00 A.M., CH. 5
MEHMET OZ — Oprah Winfrey, 6:00 p.m., CH. 7